

## Fearful River Calamity.

The Steamer *Ruth* Burned on the Mississippi—Great Loss of Life—Two and a Half Millions in Freight Destroyed.

CAIRO, Aug. 5, 1863. The Steamer *Ruth*, Capt. Pagan, left Cairo last night at 11 o'clock, with a small passenger list and 600 tons of freight, bound for Helena. Her load consisted partly of about 100 head of fat cattle for the army, and 122 mules.

Paymaster Brinton, of Philadelphia, with \$200,000 was a passenger, en route for the army of Gen. Grant, having as guard, thirty men of the 9th Wisconsin regiment, under Lieut. A. J. Lee. Less than an hour after leaving this place, the colored chaudiere discovered fire on the starboard side, and a second alarm was sounded, though not so great as might have been expected.

It is said by passengers that not four minutes elapsed after the first alarm, before the entire upper works of the steamer were in a perfect blaze. The captain was at his post. As soon as he saw that nothing but the direct intervention of Providence could save his boat, he cannot be said to have been turned toward the Missouri shore, nor more than eight miles from Cairo, in the vicinity of and just below Norfolk landing, and with a full cargo of men, he ran her hard around bow on.

Some thirty feet of her stern broke off by force of the shock, and the passengers, crew, and every one, excepting five soldiers, leaped overboard. The paymaster's box, made a simultaneous rush for the shore. A few jumped overboard and were drowned, or swam to the bank and clung to the shore. The rest of the passengers remained at their post bravely turning the tide, and trying to induce confidence in escaping passengers, but their efforts were fruitless. Paymaster Lee, who had given them orders they implicitly obeyed until the boat struck with a crash upon the banks then swung. All would soon be lost and no hope remaining of saving the money, the men left their position and endeavored to escape. Before all could leap off, the boat recoiled from shore one wheel still going, and shot out into the stream.

Five of the 9th Wis. and several passengers, all the cattle, mules, money, freight, chambermaid, one of the clerks, the son of Mr. Oglesby, one Paymaster Greenwald of Harrisburg, three Paymaster's clerks (names unknown) were known to be aboard. The flames cracked and spread, and all the mules broke loose and jumped overboard and swam to the bank, where they were shot. The mules, swam out into the stream, seeming almost insane, and was carried under and lost. Soon the wreck sank, and her sections were quenched in deep water.

The steamer *Shirley* arrived during the night bringing all the passengers, Captain, Clerk, and such property as could be picked up.

The reporter, associated with your correspondent, intends visiting the scene of disaster this morning. A list of those lost will be sent as soon as can be ascertained. At present the excitement runs so high that no man's statements can be relied upon.

The following is the list of names: Major N. S. Brinton, of Philadelphia, in charge. Clerk H. S. Goddard, Philadelphia. Major W. M. Mendenhall, Pennsylvania. John D. Ford, of Erie, Pa., four hundred dollars. Major W. W. White, Burlington, Iowa. J. S. Graves, Clerk. Major Josiah Tilden, Galesburg. L. H. Martin, Clerk, missing. Major J. W. Briggs, of Erie, Pa., W. H. Lewis, Clerk. Major W. H. Jamison, Boston, side of his head slightly cracked, missing.

Major J. M. Humphrey, Wheeling. S. S. Fletcher, Clerk. Major T. D. Greenwald, Harrisburg missing—undoubtedly killed. Frank Oglesby, Clerk of steamer, lost. Two negro deck hands, chambermaid and colored woman, cabin passenger, lost. Captain, First and Second Clerks, and crew of the steamer, missing.

The papers and all the books of Co. I, 9th Wisconsin, as guard to the Paymaster were on board. The books of the four hundred men and four privates are lost, three killed by a stage pluck falling on them while in the water; altogether there were about thirty men killed. Four hundred Commissary and Sundry stores and about one hundred tons of private freight were all lost. There was about 200 persons on board, in all. The boat valued at \$100,000, is insured for \$500,000.

The fire broke out in the after part of the boat, some say between decks, others say in the nursery. When the boat struck the shore the fire broke out, and the engines from their posts, the engines continued to work, her bow was soon turned from shore, and she again started down river. When she left the shore there were about thirty persons on her bow, nearly all of whom must have perished.

The soldiers are said to have acted heroically, and to have stood by the boxes containing the money until the boat was consumed. The boxes were iron bound, and too heavy to be removed. Besides, the flames spread all over the boat in less than five minutes. There is no satisfactory theory as to how the fire originated. It is believed, however, to have been fired by an incendiary in the interest of the rebel government.

An officer on board says that Naval Depot here night before last.

The Number of Women Killed at Vicksburg. Capt. Harry Mc Dougal, who has spent several days at Vicksburg since its surrender, writes the *New Albany Ledger* that he has made the most careful inquiry as to actual number of women killed in the city during the bombardment of the town by Gen. Grant. He learns that the number is twenty. Besides these, quite a number of children were also killed. Capt. Mc Dougal states that, during the bombardment, it was not an uncommon sight for the women to be seen, parading in hand, promenade the streets, and that the number of them killed is attributable to the bravado spirit with which they thus exposed themselves. In one instance of the death of one woman, eight or ten little boys were playing together in front of the house dug into the hill-side for the protection of the women and children; a shell exploded near them, and they were all killed. One little fellow, a most interesting child, and son of a formerly prominent merchant of the town, was literally torn in fragments.

Gen. Pemberton refused to allow the women and children to leave the city, and he is, therefore, responsible for the deaths of the women and little innocents killed during the bombardment.

These statements were obtained from the principal business men of Vicksburg, and are doubtless correct.

[Special Despatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

Federal Expedition to Jackson, North Carolina.

THE NORFOLK VIRGINIAN contains the following:

SAMUEL'S HEADQUARTERS, Aug. 3. News has been received here of the cavalry and artillery expedition under Col. Spear. They crossed the Chowan river, at Winston, N. C., and proceeded to Jackson, twenty miles from Weldon, near the Roanoke river, where the enemy was discovered in strong force. Our advance made a splendid charge on the rebel advance, and drove them back, capturing 70 prisoners. Our loss was two killed and three wounded. We captured 60 bales of cotton and 100 horses. It has raised incalculably since the expedition started, and is being rapidly sent to the front.

The men have suffered great hardships.

THE PRICE PAID. General John A. Logan gratified his employees the other day by announcing the somewhat remarkable doctrine that "the Administration is the country." Thus "casting his bread upon the waters," it has returned to him in a few days nicely buttered in this way:

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—General Logan is to be assigned to the command of the 16th army corps.

THE HARVEST.—The grain in this section is principally harvested. Owing to the drouth the yield was not over two-thirds the usual crop. The quality of the grain, however, is excellent.

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## JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILLINOIS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

Tuesday, August 11, 1863.

### Policy of the Administration.

The last twelve months have developed more fully the policy of the Administration, and the object in conducting the war as advocated by the radical element of the country.

President Lincoln is ambitious of a reelection and hence yields to the councils of the Abolitionists. In order to gain the applause and support of the fanatical, he lends his immense power to the furtherance of their pernicious doctrines.

A correspondent of the *St. Louis Republican*, writing from Washington, lays down the programme of the party to which Mr. Lincoln has yielded acquiescence.

This radical party, who now have the Administration to their bidding, and have only sustained the war because it promised opportunities of overriding all constitutional barriers to the success of their fanatical opposition to slavery and slaveholders, loyal and disloyal, now boldly and defiantly insist that the war shall not stop until every slave is free, and every rebel's property is confiscated.

According to their programme it must go on, no matter how willing the South may be to make peace and return to their allegiance, until all the rebellious States are overrun and occupied by standing armies, the State governments abolished and superseded by the radical satraps of the army choosing; the people deprived of every right and made pay the heaviest penalties for their treason, and the country given up to the occupation of negro bondholders and Northern Abolitionists.

This, then, appears to be the policy of the Administration. And to carry out this policy, freemen are to be seized and dragged from their quiet homes and made to perish in the streets.

If the radical Abolition measures, the confiscation of property, the emancipation of slaves wherever our armies gain a footing, and the arming of the emancipated slave, are to be persisted in, then may we give up all hope of a restoration of the Union as it was. Our Republic will be reduced to a despotism, wherein negro equality and negro citizenship will be the fundamental principle, and our proud national name will be blotted from the galaxy of nations.

Under this radical policy, the war hereafter is not to be prosecuted to restore the Union as it was and to secure the blessing of liberty and peace to the people, but as it is now unblushingly avowed by the "Loyal League," it is to be prosecuted in a spirit of conquest, of rapine, or lust of dominion, of savage barbarity. Our soldiers are no longer invited to march to the music of the Union, but are to go forth to destroy a portion of it, and to lay waste the land; and the misguided and exasperated people of the South are given to understand that they cannot return to the Union without submitting to a vassalage more abject than that of the viceroy of Russia.

If the Administration has fully determined, in defiance of all the warnings that have come up from every quarter, to conduct the war in accordance with the Abolition policy, it will have more appropriate hereafter to have the stars and stripes of our glorious national emblem and to send our armies forth to do battle under banners on which "Subjugation and Extinction" are inscribed.

But let us hope that we are not given up to destruction. Let us hope that the bad men, South and North, will soon be thrust aside, and that men who will be governed by reason humanity and law, instead of fanatical jealousy, and inordinate thirst for power, will take their place. Let us trust to the ballot-box to wrest the Republic from the dangers which encompass it, and stand firm by the constitution as the fathers made it, and the storm may yet pass away and free government be re-established.

THE KENTUCKY ELECTION. On the eve of the election which took place in Kentucky on the 3d inst., martial law was declared throughout the state, and guards of soldiers were placed about the ballot-boxes to keep Democrats from voting, unless they bowed the knee to King Abraham and the First. This they refused to do, and the consequence is, an Abolition triumph.

It is thus that the Administration is seeking to sustain itself in power. One by one it is wiping out the guaranteed rights of the people and annulling the sacred provisions of the constitution. The late interference with the election in a sovereign State, shows whether we are drifting, if the people remain submissive, into the arms of a despotic government.

Yet these outrages upon the constitution are all perpetrated in the name of loyalty. Well may we exclaim, Oh, loyalty, what outrages are committed in thy name, and beneath thy cover, what dark, treasonable, fanatical and damnable doctrines are promulgated.

AN UNHEALTHY COUNTRY. The cause of the falsification of Gov. Andrew's prediction that the "highways and by-ways would swarm with armed men" in case an emancipation proclamation was issued, has just been discovered. The young men of New England are extremely sickly. But ten out of a hundred are well enough to go to the war.

How the boasted healthfulness of New England has been destroyed. It must be regarded hereafter as an exceedingly sickly part of the country.

But notwithstanding the extreme debility of the men of New England, they are almost to a man "loyal" and in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war.

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## The Laws of War.

Many people, and the Abolitionists particularly, argue that the laws governing war between civilized nations, should not apply to the present rebellion in this country. Some argue that the rebel prisoners should be treated with the utmost severity, and others maintain that they should be hanged as soon as taken.

And we regret to confess that the Administration has adopted this inhuman policy, to a certain degree, in dealing with the rebel enemies. The shooting of the ten men in Missouri by the infamous McNeil, the hanging of two rebel officers in Tennessee, the imprisonment of Morgan as acts clearly in contravention to the laws of war observed by all first class nations.

The allegation that different customs prevail in the treatment of prisoners captured in a civil war, is without legal foundation.

If it were merely a rebellion, we would not say that the government would be bound to conform to the established laws of war, but the war in this country has grown beyond the proportions of simply a rebellion or insurrection. For, according to Vattel, whose commentaries on the laws of nations are acknowledged by all enlightened powers, when a party is formed in a State, who no longer obey the rightful rulers, and are possessed of sufficient strength to oppose them, or when the nation is divided into two opposite factions, and both sides take up arms, it is called a civil war.

And the same author adds that this being the case, it is very evident that the common laws of war—those maxims of humanity, moderation, and honor which characterize war between christian nations should be observed by both parties in every civil war. For the same reasons which render the observance of those maxims a matter of obligation between nations, it becomes equally and even more necessary in the unhappy circumstance of two incoherent parties locating their common country.

This is the definition of civil war as the manner of conducting it by one of the ablest and most accredited legal writers the world ever produced.

Now, on the score of humanity and common justice to our own people as well as to those who have taken up arms against us, every right-minded person should protest against the cruel policy advocated by the Abolitionists. Who is not aware that should the President conceive it right to hang up our prisoners as traitors or rebels, the opposite party would be compelled to adopt a similar course towards those of our people whom the fortunes of war throw into their hands. If our Government does not religiously observe the terms of capitulations, and other conventions made with our enemies, they of course will treat us in like manner.

Should we turn and ravage, they will follow the example, and the war will become as it already has to a great extent, cruel and horrible; inhuman and bloody, and more destructive to the nation.

Therefore, it must be admitted by every man, not a mad fanatic, or a vile wretch who glories in scenes of barbarity, blood and carnage, that the present conflict ought to be carried on in the same manner as by two different nations.

This the fathers, mothers, wives, and other relations and friends of the men who have joined our armies, as well as the soldiers themselves, expect and demand of the Government; for if our Government will conform to the laws of civilized warfare, so will our southern enemies.

By the steamship *Arabia*, we have interesting news from Europe. A debate occurred in the British house of commons, on the subject of building vessels at English docks for the Confederate States. Mr. Cadden thought if the vessels now building in England for Jeff. Davis government were permitted to depart, it would cause a declaration of war on the part of the United States. Palmerston defended the course of his government, and argued that there was no distinction in principle between furnishing the federal with arms and the confederates with ships.

HONORED BY THE DRAFT.—The telegraph informs us that John G. Nicolay, private secretary to the president, was drafted in Washington City. As George is one of the strictest sort of loyalists, we shall expect that he will recognize the "finger of Providence" pointing him to the "field where glory awaits him." We fear, however, that he will turn out as did Edward Everett's sons, and pay his little \$300.

DEATH OF H. M. JOHNSON.—Our readers of this city and vicinity will be pained to learn of the death of H. M. Johnson, Esq., which took place in Kansas on the 6th inst., of typhoid fever. He was a young lawyer of bright promise, and by his gentlemanly attentions while clerk in the post office here, and his correct moral deportment won the respect and esteem of all.

A NEW ESTABLISHMENT.—We would call the attention of dealers in groceries to the attention of Messrs. Akers & Casey, in our advertising columns. They have opened one of the heaviest establishments in Chicago, and are prepared to furnish goods on most favorable terms. Here, where Mr. Casey resides and is so well and favorably known it is not necessary to assure people that they will get the worth of their money by patronizing Messrs. Akers & Casey.

PENMANSHIP.—Prof. Geo. S. Beall, one of the most proficient teachers of penmanship in the country, has arrived in this city and will open a school in Young's Hall on Monday evening next. Terms, \$2 for fourteen lessons. Those who wish to improve in this most beautiful and useful accomplishment, should join Prof. Beall's class.

THE MAMMOTH SHOW.—Van Amburgh & Co.'s menagerie will exhibit in this city on Saturday next. They have an immense collection of animals which are said to be highly trained. Van Amburgh, whose fame as a successful tamer of the most ferocious wild animals is world-wide, will accompany the exhibition, and perform some of his wonderful feats. For details of this great show, see advertisement in this day's paper.

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## The Losses at Gettysburg.

The country will never know how many soldiers were killed or disabled during the fearful battles at Gettysburg. Various and widely differing estimates have been given, official and otherwise, but the statement of Dr. G. Winslow, of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, is doubtless more nearly accurate than any yet furnished. He says that "in all the wounded on our side amount to fourteen thousand two hundred and on the rebel side to about sixteen thousand. The killed were nearly equally divided, amounting to about ten thousand and two hundred. Quite a little army."

Forty thousand men killed and wounded in three days! Well may the Doctor call them "quite a little army."

The number exceeds the population of this whole county, and equals the population of our city nearly six times, which enables us to form something like an estimate of what this appalling political war is costing us.

Yours truly, J. W. F.

Infamous! Millersburg, Ohio, July 27. "To the lasting disgrace of Millersburg, the Abolitionist of this place, burst forth to-night over the death of the Hon. John S. Giddens."

We find the issue in the *Cleveland Plaindealer*. It is thus that the Abolitionists insult the memory of that pure and noble patriot. When the murderer John Brown was hanged they tied garlands to his (treasonable) arm; but when the tried friend of this country, John J. Crittenden, died, they burnt him. Such is Abolitionism.

KILLED.—A son of Mr. Stewart of this city, who had been at work for Mr. John Kerwin two miles west of the city, was instantly killed by a kick from one of Mr. Kerwin's horses on the 24th inst. He entered the stable to feed the horses, and carelessly went to near their heads, and the loss of his life was the result. He was about 14 years old.

FINE SHOWERS.—On Saturday and Sunday last we were visited by a series of fine showers, wetting the ground thoroughly. The parched grass and dried up vegetation generally has assumed a different hue, and everything now looks promising.

Hon. William L. Yancy, the noted Southern politician and one of the earliest apostles of secession, died at Montgomery, Ala., on the 27th ult.

S. J. W. Fencery, Sutter of the Yates Sharpshooters-regiment, has our thanks for late Memphis paper.

MAINE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION. Portland, Me., Aug. 6. The Democratic State convention met to-day, 900 delegates being present. Resolutions were passed, in substance as follows:

1. All men, irrespective of party, are invited to unite for the termination of the calamities which now depress our distracted and unhappy land.

2. The Union was framed in fraternity and concession, and cannot exist in the absence of that brotherly spirit.

3. We will earnestly support every constitutional measure tending to preserve the Union. We cannot, therefore, support the present administration, whose course is destructive of the Union and the government.

4. The war is now being conducted, not for the restoration of the Union, but for the abolition of slavery and the destruction of the Republic.

5. Under our form of government, the sovereign power is vested in the people, and rests upon no other foundation than that will. The people are the only lawful source of power, and public functionaries are their servants.

6. On the part of the rebel States, if a disposition is shown to return, they should be readmitted to the Union on the basis of equality, and rights unimpaired.

7. This resolution denounces arbitrary arrests.

8. Denounces the conscription law as unjust, but counsels obedience to it, unless the courts decide it unconstitutional.

9. Increases the duties of Gov. Seymour, of New York.

10. Commends our soldiers, and says they are worthy the nation's gratitude.

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## From Europe.

St. Johns, Aug. 7. The steamship *Hibernian*, from Liverpool, the 30th, via Greenock, the 31st passed Cape Race at 8 P. M.

It is believed at Frankfurt that the Public opinion would be settled by diplomacy. The war panic had subsided in Paris. The *France* says that news from St. Petersburg indicates a conciliatory disposition.

ENGLAND.—The *London Globe*, in reviewing the situation of American affairs, contends that the rebels are far from being conquered, and thinks that Lee, at Gettysburg, is as safe a winner, Gen. Grant's campaign is the most brilliant, but will be confined in its fruits to the immediate neighborhood of the river. The *Globe* says:

"If the Federals are wise, they will exert themselves to secure what they have got for territorial arrangements, and abandon the impossible enterprise of subjugation."

St. Johns, N. F., Aug. 8. The steamship *Cydon*, from Liverpool, August 1, passed Cape Race at 8 P. M. Her dates are two days later than those of the *Hibernian*.

ST. JOHNS.—The *Times* argues to show that the recent Federal successes are not likely to prove materially advantageous to them.

The *Gray Lady* and *Navy Gazette* take a most gloomy view of the military prospects of the Confederates. It says:

"The retreat of Gen. Bragg and the defeat of Gen. Johnston before General Sherman's army show sufficient signs of exhaustion." It adds:

"Charleston is in real danger, and, if it falls, Savannah follows."

The Federal army, which the Federal armaments cannot be filled without a conscription, which may be resisted by the North, and the Confederates yet wrest victories from her grasp.

From Memphis. Memphis, Aug. 5. By the arrival of the *Minneapolis* I have advice from New Orleans to the 29th and 30th inst. that the attempt is a failure.

On the 29th of July Gen. Banks and staff, and Gen. Franklin, Weitzel, Stone, Bowen, and other officers, with a large force of invited citizens of New Orleans, took passage on the steamer *Crescent City* for Vicksburg. The real object of Gen. Banks' visit to that place is contraband, but enough can be given to the public to make them feel satisfied that a movement will soon be made that will equal in its accomplishment any yet put into execution.

The arrival of steamers at New Orleans are reported to be the Raymond and Bettelle from Vicksburg, and the *Lafayette* from Baton Rouge.

The river here has risen, the past 24 hours six inches.

A few cases of yellow fever have occurred in New Orleans, but the health of the city is the time year is good.

Vicksburg is reported very unhealthy, typhoid fever and diarrhoea being the principal diseases.

Memphis, Aug. 6. The *Salt* arrived last evening from the loaded docks with a cargo of salt. The City of *Memphis* arrived also from below. She is in the service of the Medical Department and had on board 400 sick. During the voyage 23 men died, and were buried here and buried. She remained only long enough to take on supplies of ice and other necessary stores, when she left for St. Louis, where she will discharge her cargo of salt.

Gen. Ben. Prentiss and staff arrived from Helena on the *Courier* this morning. Reports are in town that he will soon take command of the 10th Army Corps, in place of Gen. Harlitt, who has resigned.

Several boats are in port and up from New Orleans. As soon as the restrictions are removed, a movement will soon be made with that port is anticipated.

For some days past the weather has been extremely sultry and hot.

Church Dedication at Logansport, Ind. A correspondent of the *New York Free Press* writes from Logansport, Ind., July 26th, gives the following account of the dedication of a Catholic Church at that place:

"It was our good fortune, on yesterday, to be present at the dedication of God of the very handsome church of St. Vincent de Paul, Logansport, Indiana, Rev. Geo. A. Hamilton, pastor. It is constructed of solid stone, from base to summit, and is capable of seating at least twelve hundred persons. Its interior decorations are of the highest artistic style, it being beautifully carved in the choir, and the magnificent stained glass windows. The dedication was performed by the Rev. Reverend Bishop of Vincennes, the Rev. Canon of Logansport, and the Rev. Canon of Louisville. Of its office to say, that it was not unworthy of the learned and eloquent Bishop Spalding. Among the clergy present in Logansport, we noticed Rev. C. J. Maugin and J. W. McNeill of Lafayette, also Rev. B. F. Force and two other clergymen whose names we have forgotten. Rev. Bishop Leary delivered a sermon at three o'clock in the morning, and Dr. Spalding delivered one in the evening, at eight o'clock, on the 'perpetuity of the Church.' Upon each of these occasions, the church was thronged with spectators. The crowd was much thickened by the arrival of a train of eight cars, at 10 A. M., from Lafayette, packed inside and outside with persons to attend the dedication. Upon the whole, the day was one of just pride to the good Catholics of Logansport, particularly their excellent pastor, Father Hamilton, who presided at the altar, and whose words were a great aid to the beautiful dedication on yesterday."

Most of our readers will recognize in the Rev. G. A. Hamilton, the eloquent and worthy pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of this city, several years ago.

Col. Carroll C. Marsh. Col. C. C. Marsh, of Fort Donelson fame is now in Washington, and stopping at the Kirkwood Hotel. He was the only man called out in front of the army and complimented. At Shiloh he was great honor.—Washington Union.

Col. Marsh is in this city, says the *Philadelphia Evening Journal*, the day after he has proved himself one of the bravest men and best soldiers in the service, and was several times urgently recommended by General Grant, and by Lovjoy, over whom Col. Marsh was elected as colonel of his regiment, was his enemy at court, and Gen. Grant's request not to come to this city. Col. Marsh, who disgraced the American name by his atrocities in Alabama, and McNeill, who shot ten innocent men in Missouri to